

The United States Ambassador's HIV/AIDS Small Grants Fund

Background: The US Ambassador's HIV/AIDS Small Grants Fund (ASGF) is a program under PEPFAR, the US government's assistance program for HIV and AIDS, to help small, grassroots, community-run projects in the North, Central and Southern regions of Malawi, stop HIV.

In 2013, ASGF will fund projects that (1) improve access to HIV services for people with disabilities (PWD's) by mainstreaming disability into HIV and health services, (2) provide HIV prevention and education among PWD's, and (3) advocate for the rights of PWD's.

Malawi has approximately 500,000 of PWD's (4.18% of total population). Malawi currently has policies and legal frameworks for promoting and upholding rights of the PWD's with its Constitution, Handicapped Persons' Act (1971), National Policy on the Equilisation of Persons with Disabilities (2006), National Special Needs Education Policy and Disability Bill (2012).

However, access to health services, especially in HIV/AIDS by PWDs is low. This is due to many reasons including (i) the lack of money to get to health facilities; (ii) mistreatment or lack of awareness by health workers; (iii) communication barriers between health workers and PWDs; (iv) long distances to health facilities; (v) going to traditional healers because of the belief that they have been bewitched e.g. for mental illness and epilepsy.

With regard to HIV, prevalence of HIV among PWDs is unknown. PWD's are vulnerable to HIV infection due to their physical challenges, poverty and misbeliefs among communities that PWDs are cleansers of HIV. Access to HIV testing and counseling, condoms, HIV education and HIV services tends to be very low among PWDs due to these services not being tailored to the PWD's special needs.

Examples of types of projects that will be funded by ASGF:

- Sensitization of existing policies that promotes the rights of PWD's to translate them into practice.
- Advocacy of rights of PWD's.
- Building capacity of health workers/health care service providers with skills to understand and respond to the special needs of PWD's.
- Behavior change among health workers.
- Improving access of PWDs to health services.
- Economic empowerment of PWDs through innovative schemes.
- Development of HIV and health educational materials in Braille format.
- Studies and researches on the specific needs, prevalence of HIV among PWD, and their access to health services.
- Production and distribution of assistive devices.
- Addressing stigma and harmful practices related to PWDs that increases risk of PWDs and exposure of HIV infections.
- HIV testing and counseling among PWDs.
- HIV education and sensitization among PWDs.
- Integration or mainstreaming need of PWDs into existing PEPFAR and Ministry of Health programs.

Grant amount: Grants up to MWK 3,300,000 (~US \$10,000)

What the Money can be used for

- "One time" start-up costs
- Training for staff and volunteers
- Prevention and awareness campaigns, workshops, and outreach sessions to the community
- Educational materials and training supplies

What the Money cannot be used for

- No Building Costs
- No Vehicles Purchased

Grant Monitoring and Evaluation

- Quarterly visits will be made to assess progress, collect data, and determine if further disbursements will be made.

Project Criteria:

- The grant must be used to start or expand community-initiated projects that address needs of PWDs and HIV pandemic and should benefit the greatest number of people possible.
- Grants will be given for one year only. Projects must be completed within this one year period.

- The organization should be established, registered grassroots community-based organizations (CBOs) or NGO with a permanent address.
- The project manager must be Malawian and must reside in the project area.
- The organization should have capacity to implement the project, deliver the intended results, report technical and financial progress of the project, and monitor and record the outcome indicators and proposed impact to the community.
- The organization should have proven experience and accomplishments in tackling needs of PWD's or HIV pandemic.
- At the end of the year's period, the project must be able to continue on its own, or with help from the community.
- The organizations committing their own resources in cash or in kind will be viewed more favorably.

Elements of Successful Projects:

- Pre-established long-term goals and a coherent plan to keep the project running in the future
- Presence of a capable project manager who is a long-term resident in the community
- Assistance of a non-biased umbrella organization, such as a religious mission or a local NGO that will provide guidance and arbitration on issues when necessary
- Coordination and communication amongst the grant-recipient group, local leaders, and local government representatives
- Use of materials and supplies that can be maintained by the community, and the use of materials that will not harm the environment

Required documents for application:

- Completed Grant Application Form
- A copy of registration certificate of the organization

Deadline: February 1, 2013. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

How to apply:

The completed Grant Application Form together with supporting materials should be sent to PEPFAR office via U.S. Embassy by standard mail or e-mail. Hand-delivered application should go to PEPFAR office at NICO house.

Due to large number of applications we receive, only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. Shortlisted applicants will be informed by March 1, 2013 and will be invited to submit a full proposal. Applicants who are not contacted by March 1, 2013, should consider their application unsuccessful.

Mail: US Embassy, PEPFAR Office, PO Box 30016, Lilongwe 3.

Email: PEPFAR.Lilongwe@state.gov In Subject line insert: PEPFAR Small grants.

Hand-Delivery: PEPFAR office, NICO House, Lilongwe City Center

GRANT APPLICATION FORM FOR AMBASSADOR'S SMALL GRANTS FUND FOR HIV/AIDS

All applicants who would like to be considered for funding, must submit applications no later than **February 1, 2013**.

Date submitted: _____

1. Name of Project _____

2. Name of Organization/Group _____

3. Address of Organization: (please provide exact physical location and P.O Box) _____

4. Type of the Organization/Group Informal group / CBO / Local NGO / NGO / INGO

5. Registration Verification:

Year in which your organization established _____ Date of NGO/CBO registration _____

Place of registration (e.g district or national) _____

(Please provide **a copy** of your organization's registration certificate)

6. Sponsoring Organization of Agency (if any) _____

7. Has your organization ever received **funding from the U.S. Government**? Yes / No _____
(If yes, please provide details)

8. Project Manager:

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ E-mail if available _____

9. Trustee (Chief from village or TA or Government staff who could provide reference about the organization)

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ E-mail if available _____

10. Experiences: Please provide brief description of your organization's experiences in working with PWDs and/or HIV.

12. Where the project will be implemented?

Village (s) _____

13. Who are the beneficiaries? _____

15. How much additional funding is needed? (Proposed grant amount) _____ MKW

16. What is the goal and brief description of your project? _____

Title	Date
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